CLAMS PTO

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1.   A method of storing, searching and purchasing a wide variety of items
from
an intranet based electronic stockroom and catalog (ESAC) comprising the steps
of:

housing the ESAC in a server that operates on a secure company intranet
wherein the ESAC can be accessed by authorized employees at one or more
terminals;

storing on-site inventory information and vendor catalog information in the
ESAC;

allowing multiple vendors to download their catalog information to the
ESAC for initial loading of their catalogs or updating of their catalogs;

providing search capabilities for simultaneous searching, by authorized
employees, of the multiple vendor catalogs and items that are available on-site;
and

integrating ESAC functions with other company electronic files so that
budgeting, accounting and authorization limitations are implemented in the
purchasing process and tracking of purchases is possible.

2.   The method of claim 1 wherein, the step of allowing comprises
permitting the vendors to download their catalog information via the Internet to
the ESAC and the catalog information includes text and image information.

3.   The method of claim 1 wherein, the step of providing search capabilities
comprises providing keyword, part number, manufacturer or other descriptor
search mechanisms.

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4.   The method of claim 1 wherein, the step of integrating comprises associating budgeting, accounting and authorization information with each employee and/or group of employees and automatically updating this information upon purchases and/or issues that are made.

5.   The method of claim 1 wherein, the step of integrating comprises associating an order for an item with an employee placing the order and notifying the employee when the item is received.

6.   A system of storing, searching and purchasing a wide variety of items from
an intranet based electronic stockroom and catalog (ESAC) comprising:

     an ESAC program that is executed on a server that operates on a secure company intranet, wherein the ESAC is accessed by authorized employees at one or more company terminals;

     on-site inventory information and multiple vendor catalog information that is stored in ESAC wherein, the vendors are allowed to download their catalog information to ESAC, both for initial loading of their catalog and for updating of their catalog information;

     search capabilities that allow for simultaneous searching of the multiple vendor catalogs and items that are available on-site; and

     ESAC functions that provide integration of ESAC files with other company electronic files so that budgeting, accounting and authorization limitations are implemented with each purchase and tracking of purchases is possible.

7.   The system of claim 6 wherein, the vendors can download their catalog information via the Internet to ESAC and the catalog information includes text and image information.

8.   The system of claim 6 wherein, the search capabilities provide keyword.
part number, manufacturer or other descriptor search mechanisms.

9.   The system of claim 6 wherein, budgeting, accounting and authorization
information is associated with each employee and/or group of employees and
the budgeting, accounting and authorization information is automatically updated
with each purchase and/or issue.

10.   The system of claim 6 wherein, the step of integrating comprises
associating an order for an item with an employee placing the order and notifying
the employee when the item is received.